THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Government have granted the authorisation to market transportation fuels in favour of M/s. Reliance Petroleum Limited (RPL) and M/s. Essar Oil Limited (EOL). These companies have proposed to set up 5849 and 1700 Retail Outlets respectively in various States.

(c) Government have asked the aforesaid companies to set up 10.9% of their total Retail Outlets in remote/low service areas to meet the requirement of such areas.

Import of surplus gas from Bangladesh

1462. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI R.P. GOENKA:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Bangladesh has accorded its approval for the proposed export of surplus natural gas to India;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement reached with Bangladesh;

(c) the arrangements finalised for laying the pipelines and time-frame fixed for actual flow of gas to India; and

(d) the areas to be covered for distribution of this gas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise. However, in case the Government of Bangladesh decides to export gas to India, a consortium of three Oil Public Sector Undertakings, namely Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Gas Authority of India Limited and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited Will participate.

Anomaly in foreign postings

1463. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI K. M. KHAN:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention as been drawn to the news-item